

2007-08 CHARTER ISSUE SUMMARY

Budget Allotment Requirements

Section 475 Work Programs and Allotments

Issue subject: Should the charter be amended to remove Section 475, which requires agencies to present work programs and requested allotments each quarter?

Issue raised by: In the King County Council's September 28, 2007 letter, it referenced the report by Financial Policies Advisory Task Force (Task Force) recommending that the CRC consider eliminating the allotment requirements contained in Section 475 of the charter.

Description of issue: The Task Force concurred with both Council Staff and the Executive's Office of Management and Budget in finding that these quarterly estimates of agency spending provide little value. Proposed changes to Section 475 would eliminate the allotment system and its associated charter terms. Council and the Executive are in full agreement that this provision is obsolete and should be removed from the charter.

Summary of recommendation: Given that the budget allotment process is no longer of value and that both Council and the Executive agree that no part of Section 475 is relevant to the county's current budget system, it is recommended that the charter be amended to strike Section 475.

Suggested charter revision:

Section 475. Work Programs and Allotments.

~~Within thirty days after the adoption of the appropriation ordinances, each agency of county government except the county council shall present to the county executive work programs and requested allotments by program, project, object of expense or period of time to properly control expenditures and prevent deficits; and the county executive may allot and withhold appropriations. At any time during the fiscal year, the county executive may transfer current expense appropriations between general classifications of expenditures within the same executive department, administrative office, board or commission.~~

~~During the last quarter of the fiscal year, the county council when requested to do so by the county executive may adopt an ordinance to transfer appropriations between agencies of county government; but a capital budget project shall not be abandoned thereby unless its abandonment is recommended by the executive department responsible for planning.~~

Recommendation: Amend the charter by striking Section 475 in its entirety.

Reference documents:

- Letter to CRC from Councilmembers Bob Ferguson, Jane Hague, Dow Constantine and Kathy Lambert, September 28, 2007.
- Minutes of the December 5, 2007 Regional Governance Subcommittee.
- Financial Policies Advisory Task Force report, September 12, 2007.

Instructions for submitting charter recommendation to Council: Recommend to Council that it submit to King County voters in the November 2008 general election an initiative to amend the charter by striking Section 475.